

REMARKS

Claims 8, 10, 15, 16, and 18 have been amended to correct the antecedent issues pointed out by the Examiner. Claim 14 has been canceled.

Claims 1-2, 6-11, and 5-17 were provisionally rejected based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground with respect to copending Application No. 09/918,027. Applicant has supplied herewith a terminal disclaimer indicating that the present application and the copending application are commonly owned.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's clearly explained rationale in the present Office Action, and requests that the Examiner consider allowance of pending claims 1-13 and 15-20, in view of the fact that Applicant believes that the present claims, as amended, are now allowable in conjunction with the supplied terminal disclaimer.

If, in the Examiner's opinion, prosecution of the present application may be expedited with a telephone conference, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's attorney, Michael Byorick (Reg. No. 34,131) at (505) 534-9004.

There are now 19 claims and 3 independent claims. 20 total claims and 3 independent claims were paid for at the initial filing. Accordingly, it is believed that no further fees are due in connection with this amendment. If any additional fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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